his own terms. Had he acted promptly, he might possibly have suppressed the revolt. As it was, he dallied, and, although Hankow was retaken by the end of October, the interval had been sufficiently long to enable the revolution to gain headway. In October and November, city after city and province after province threw off the Manchu yoke and in them independent governments were set up. The only fighting of any importance was in the Wuhan cities (Wuchang, Hankow, and Hanyang) and Nanking. In several places Manchu garrisons, helpless, were massacred. Concessions by Peking availed nothing. Before the end of the year, a national council representing the revolutionists assembled at Nanking and (December 28) elected as President of the Republic Sun Yat-sen. Sun had been in Europe at the inception of the outbreak, but recently, amid great acclaim, had returned to China.

Before Sun's arrival, negotiations had been begun between Yuan and the revolutionists. Wise heads on both sides strove to save the country from further debilitating civil strife. Yuan succeeded, partly by threats, in convincing the court of the import of the writing on the wall, and on February 12, 1912, edicts were issued from Peking, in the name of the young Emperor, by which the Ch'ing accepted its fate, Hsiian Tung abdicated and Yuan was instructed 10 organize a republic* The Emperor, so the republicans agreed, was to retain his title for life, was to receive a large annuity, and was to keep his private property and the use oi a palace. The tomb of Kuang Hsu was to be completed at public expense. Manchus, Moslems, Mongols, and Tibetans were promised equality with the Chinese and were secured in their titles

and their property. Within a few days, further to insure peace, Sun withdrew from the Presidency and the republican body at Nanking elected Yuan in his stead. Li Yuan-hung, who had become something of a popular hero by his part in the outbreak of the revolution, was elected Vice-President. The Ch'ing dynasty, with a minimum of bloodshed, had passed the way of its predecessors. The nation, outwardly united, had embarked on a perilous experiment with republican forms.

So perished, with scarcely a struggle, a monarchical institution which had its beginnings in prehistoric times, which had been reinstituted and remodeled by Ch'in Shih Huang Ti, and which had